

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 7-12 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the application as originally filed (see specification at page 10, lines 7-16 and FIGS. 1A-1B).

Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a flexographic printing plate including a raised part for transferring a printing substance to a printing substrate, where the raised part is directly formed on a surface of the printing plate (see specification at page 10, lines 7-16 and FIGS. 1A-1B).

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,343,550 to Feesler. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feesler in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2004/0099389 to Chen et al. ("Chen"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1 over Feesler, the Feesler reference does not teach or suggest a flexographic printing plate in which a raised part is "directly formed on a surface of the printing plate."

In Feesler, a ridge 40 is formed on a pull band 34, which is positioned along a side edge of a printing plate 22 in various arrangements, as shown in FIGS. 6-8 of Feesler (see, e.g., column 5, lines 8-17).

Therefore, the ridge 40 of Feesler is not directly connected to the printing plate 22, but instead is formed on the pull band 34.

Moreover, the ridge 40 of the pull band 34 does not transfer ink to the substrate, but instead merely grips the substrate to prevent its edges from curling (see Feesler at column 2, lines 35-44; and column 4, lines 52-54).

Further, Applicants' arguments in the response filed on November 5, 2007 are incorporated by reference herein.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the Feesler reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 are patentable over Feesler.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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